

Open Space Division • Management Report

April - June
2009

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Acquisition: Acquire lands to preserve resources and provide for future recreational opportunities

- Open Space purchased the mineral rights for 797.24 acres of Mount Galbraith Park. The acquisition of these mineral rights helps protect Mount Galbraith Park's surface from mineral development and preserve the view shed.
- A donation of a 2,500 square-foot parcel from Dakota Hogback, LLC located south of Bowles Avenue, west of C-470 and contiguous to the eastern boundary of the Stafford Hogback Open Space now provides a connection between an existing Trail Easement and Open Space property.
- The County acquired from the McLeod family approximately 24.3 acres, contiguous to the Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve via Colorow Road. This property will protect the natural resource values, help preserve the wildlife movement corridor between Windy Saddle Park and the Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve, protect the open, scenic value of this area and provide a buffer between the Lookout Mountain Nature Preserve and nearby residential development to the west.



Clear Creek Canyon

- To extend the Van Bibber Trail from Indiana to the Boulder Diversion Canal, the County acquired 32.18 acres in a linear parcel of land, approximately 150 feet wide and 1.77 miles long from Public Service/Xcel Energy. Public Service will retain power lines and towers.
- The County requested an Access Permit and a Lease Agreement over 1.3 acres on the northern side of Highway 6 from Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to construct the Mayhem Gulch trailhead and a 60-car parking lot adjacent to US Highway 6 at mile post 262.
- Following a Rockfall Mitigation Feasibility Study for the Clear Creek Canyon corridor conducted by CDOT, multiple sites on Open Space property were identified for mitigation such as rock scaling, netting and monitoring. The County determined that CDOT's mitigation on Open Space would not impair development of trail and other recreational improvements in Clear Creek Canyon. This Easement Agreement authorizes CDOT's rockfall mitigation on the Open Space sites and replaces the 2006 terminated Intergovernmental Agreement.

Land Management: Manage Open Space lands to preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources

- A Bio-Aquifer storm system that incorporates concrete pavers where vehicle traffic occurs and creates a storm water storage and bio-treatment volume in the aggregate beneath the pavement will be installed at Hildebrand Ranch Park. Trailhead construction is anticipated to continue through the summer, with Open Space crews completing the project with the installation of a handrail on the crossing of Deer Creek, entry road signage and fencing. The area is closed to the public during construction.
- Centennial Cone Park vault restrooms have been completed and are open to the public. Equestrian parking was modified at the north parking lot to increase number of spaces from 2 to 4.

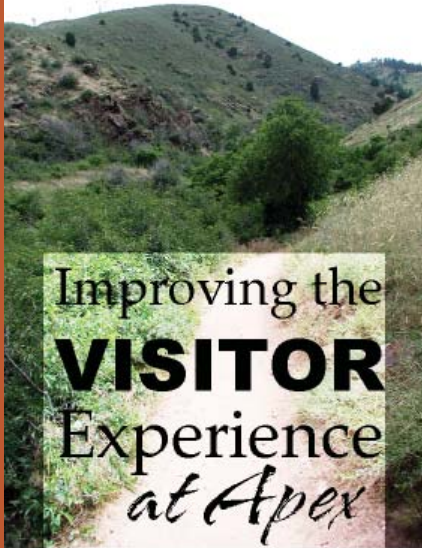
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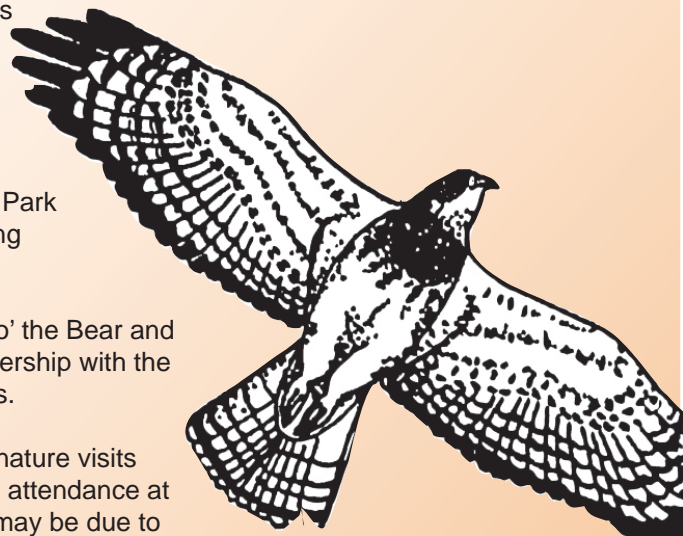
Recreation: Provide for quality visitor experiences in a manner that protects natural and cultural resources

- Open Space initiated a public process to identify opportunities to improve the visitor experience at Apex Park in response to increased reports of conflict and safety concerns. The process began with a scoping document prepared by staff, identification of stakeholders, outreach to user groups through the Trail Use Task Force, mailing of 1,100 postcards to park neighbors and two Open House events resulting in a listening log with over 500 comments. Staff will continue to work with the community this fall to develop management options for potential implementation in 2010.
- The Elk Meadow Park Management Plan team is working with neighbors adjacent to the Dog Off-Leash Area to reduce the incidents of trespassing by dogs and their owners. The mitigation of "social trails" will begin in late July.



Education: Foster awareness and appreciation for natural and cultural resources and the ethic of resource stewardship

- The Lookout Mountain Nature Center staff presented Wings of Spring vignettes (formerly called Migration Celebration) at Matthews/Winters and Crown Hill Parks in April and May, Wildlife Homes Celebration in March (a new program) and the Wildflower Festival in June. Dinosaur Ridge Day and National "Get Outdoors Day" at City Park in Denver were large outreach events involving naturalists and volunteers.
- Installation of new interpretive panels at Lair o' the Bear and Windy Saddle Parks were completed in partnership with the Building Construction and Maintenance crews.
- Nearly 18,000 people were reached through nature visits and group and public programs. Near-record attendance at the Nature Center over the past two months may be due to the new highway sign on westbound I-70.
- The first campfire program was held at the outdoor classroom at Lair o' the Bear Park in May. Open Space staff completed modifications to existing crusher fines trails from the Park's parking lot to the new facility. The trail is now in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) as an "Outdoor Access Route." Approximately 250 linear feet of trail was modified with minimal grading to meet Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines. The next campfire program scheduled in July is full and has a waiting list of more than 20 people.
- Center Stage Theater's presentation of "Will Rogers Now" was sponsored by Jefferson County Historical Society and Open Space. Despite inclement weather, about 60 people attended and enjoyed this excellent first-person portrayal by Lance Brown of Chicago.
- Mary Jane Bradbury portrayed Augusta Tabor in a sold-out tea held at Hiwan Homestead Museum on June 8.
- Hiwan staff and volunteers marched in the Evergreen Rodeo Parade on June 20. A large



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Education: Foster awareness and appreciation for natural and cultural resources and the ethic of resource stewardship *(continued)*

contingent of “Hiwan Herefords” on wheels wowed the crowd, assisted by the volunteers from the Association of Living History dressed in U.S. Military uniforms from the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

- Discovery Days Day Camp, sponsored by Jefferson County Historical Society, was held in June and approximately 115 children participated.
- Hiwan Homestead Museum programs served 7,043 people during the second quarter of 2009.

Partnerships: Strengthen and build partnerships for community parks, recreation, open space and trails

- Hiwan Homestead Museum led to the community effort to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Bergen Park, Evergreen and Conifer. Other community groups such as the Center for the Arts Evergreen, Evergreen Park and Recreation District, Evergreen Downtown Business Association, Bear Creek Rodeo Association and others joined to organize a series of exhibits and special events to highlight the area’s 150th Anniversary.
- Assistance for school field trips was offered through a grant from the Jeffco Open Space Foundation, Inc. Through this grant, 250 students participated in the Hiwan Homestead Museum’s education programs.
- The National “Get Outdoors Day” event was a success, with Denver boasting the largest event in the nation. Many state and national resource agency officials attended, including the chief of the U.S. Forest Service well as the directors of Colorado State Parks and Colorado Division of Wildlife.
- The Mayhem Gulch parking and trailhead, located 12 miles west of Golden on US Highway 6, was closed on June 22 to begin construction of the planned 60-car parking facility. The Mayhem Gulch Trail is also closed from the junction of Juniper Trail to



Hiwan Homestead Museum celebrates with community.



US Highway 6. The highway will be widened to accommodate turn lanes as well as the construction of the parking lot.

- Clear Creek Trail bridge deck replacement was completed in April and two kiosks were constructed and installed along the corridor. A portion of the Clear Creek Trail will be transferred to the City of Wheat Ridge for management within the incorporated area.

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Sustainability: Ensure the viability of Jefferson County Open Space for future generations

- Park Hosts and other volunteers are collecting visitor input for the annual Visitor Experience Survey May 1 through September 30. Survey locations for 2009 are Alderfer/Three Sisters, Mount Galbraith and Lair 'o the Bear Parks. Collection is also occurring along the Clear Creek Trail corridor just east of McIntyre. This is the first time a trail segment has been included in the Visitor Survey effort. Unfortunately, the survey along the trail corridor has been unexpectedly suspended until the pedestrian bridge along the Clear Creek Trail is repaired following highway construction activities adjacent to the trail.
- Design has been completed for a parking lot, trailhead and entry road at North Table Mountain Park. Access will be from Highway 93 and includes a 40-car parking lot with a separate equestrian lot.
- Maintenance activities to prolong the use of Open Space facilities included miscellaneous repairs on the Open Space trailer; painting and repair of restrooms at Alderfer/Three Sisters, Van Bibber, White Ranch, Elk Meadow and Mount Galbraith Parks; picnic shelters at Pine Valley Ranch; and an entry sign at South Valley.